

University of Pittsburgh  
Senate Council Meeting  
Minutes of October 11, 2004

1. President Bircher called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate Council meeting on September 15 were approved as written.
3. President Bircher asked for items of new business for the meeting. Professor Hartman, chair of the Community Relations Committee, said that that her committee would like people to get involved in a letter-writing campaign to the Legislature to fund the Port Authority, but the resolution is not ready yet. Professor Frieze suggested using email when the resolution is ready.

4. Report of the Chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg

Chancellor Nordenberg said that after reading the minutes of the last meeting, he wondered what we could do for an encore, but there was no problem. Last Friday another Pitt graduate, Wangari Maathai, won the Nobel Peace Prize for founding the green belt movement to fight deforestation in Africa. She also has been an advocate for democracy, human rights and women's rights. Referring to other winners of distinguished awards last year, he noted that every university makes important contributions through the work of its graduates. Last Friday Pitt also concluded Science 2004. This event has grown in size and quality every year. It allows us to showcase the talented people at Pitt and CMU. It brings to this campus very distinguished speakers from around the country. These speakers provided the Chancellor with very positive feedback about the level of achievement and spirit at the university. On Friday he also participated in a press conference with US Secretary of Energy, Spencer Abraham, who was here to announce the names of the faculty members in the School of Engineering who will receive a \$1 million Federal grant to support their work on enhanced oil recovery techniques. In addition, the Chancellor met with a group of senior representatives of Ford Motor Company to talk about the work resulting from their commitment of \$2.5 million to create the Ford Institute for Human Security within the Ridgeway Center for International Security Studies. They were pleased with the progress made by the faculty members charged with leading that initiative. They also did the formal ribbon cutting for the new headquarters for the Ridgeway Center and they hosted the lecture inaugurating the Ford Center given by Canadian Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire. Friday also brought the final preparations for two weeks worth of "Jeopardy." The set in the Petersen Events Center was spectacular and Pitt will get great public relations for two weeks. This program is seen by 17 million people every day. The School of Medicine was designated a Udall Center of Excellence by the National Institutes of Health. This gives a big boost in terms of financial support and credibility for Pitt's efforts in dealing with Parkinson's diseases. The Supercomputer Center, one of our oldest and strongest partnerships with Carnegie Mellon University, received a \$9.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation to install a new high performance system manufactured by Cray and called "Red Storm." This system will have a peak performance capacity of 10 trillion calculations per second. A few days later the NSF made a second announcement that Pitt and CMU together won a \$25 million grant to create our newest partnership, a national center for the science of learning. This will be one of three centers in the US. These are signs of what can happen when we partner effectively. As strong as we are

individually, neither university could have attracted these resources alone. It is when combined that we have the power to do that work and to compete nationally. He also said he wanted to congratulate CMU because one of its faculty members and graduates won the Nobel Prize in Economics today. Turning to the arts, Professor Nathan Davis and his “Education through Jazz” program played a major role in a concert sponsored by the International Music Council at UNESCO conference in Paris. We also dedicated the new Blaisdell Hall, a center for the Performing Arts, at Bradford. It is a spectacular facility for the campus and community. The formal dedication ceremony was highlighted by a presentation by the opera star Marilyn Horne, who is a Bradford native and who served as the honorary chair of the fundraising committee for the facility. The Chancellor ended by saying that there will be more good things to come that he will report about in November.

5. Report of the President of the Senate, Nicholas G. Bircher

Professor Bircher reported on some of the Activities of the Standing Committees of the Senate.

- The Admissions and Student Aid Committee met on September 29<sup>th</sup> and Betsy Porter gave a presentation on admissions data for incoming students.
- The Anti-discriminatory Policies Committee said that it is withdrawing the resolution regarding the Safe Zone Program that had been tabled at the September Faculty Assembly meeting. Although the committee feels the program is important to move forward, they wish to investigate options that do not require Faculty Assembly approval. The ACLU has dropped all of its litigation regarding same-sex benefits given the change in Pitt’s policy.
- The Athletics Committee will redraft its report to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics to include the discussion at Faculty Assembly in June. The chair, Bill Zamboni, and Professor Bircher will write a cover letter for the Committee’s report to the COIA as to why we do not choose to join at this time. As part of the on-going dialogue, we will invite Professor Eno, head of the Coalition, or his designate, to speak at our spring plenary session, which will be entitled “Athletics: Do we have enough to say?”
- The revised mission statement of the Benefits and Welfare Committee is on the table in the back. The committee and Professor Bircher will be working with Jay Frerotte, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, on an “AED” map which will spell out the location of available Automatic External Defibrillators and provide a one-page set of instructions on the flip side.
- The Budget Policies Committee held its first meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>. They expect a busy year.
- The Bylaws and Procedures Committee will meet again in mid November. The new co-chairs are Alice Kuller of Health Sciences Library Services and Ted Rice of the School of Pharmacy.
- The Commonwealth Relations Committee will hold its next luncheon on Friday, October 15. The guest speaker is Paul Costa, Democratic member of the House of Representatives from the 34<sup>th</sup> district of Allegheny County. The October 22 meeting will be held at the Bradford campus and the guest speaker is Representative Martin Causer from Cameron, McKean and Potter Counties.

- Linda Hartman, Chair of the Community Relations Committee, is on the agenda to discuss the fall plenary, which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, and is entitled “The Scholarship of Community Service.”
- The Computer Usage Committee met on October 7 for the first time this term and is anticipating another busy year.
- The Educational Policies Committee will have its chair, Tom Metzger, talk about the Campus Climate Report at the November Faculty Assembly meeting.
- The new co-chairs of the Library Committee are Rosemary Hoffmann of the School of Nursing and Michael Vanyukov of the School of Pharmacy. As co-chairs of the Library Committee, they were invited by the Provost to serve on the Information Technology Steering Committee. As discussed at Faculty Assembly, the evolution of information acquisition and management are absolutely critical for the entire university community and he looks forward to a substantially revitalized role for the Library Committee.
- The Plant Utilization and Planning Committee reconsidered its mission and decided to stick with the current mission statement and to be more active within its scope. The committee met on September 13, at which time Carolyn Carson was elected chair. He said everyone looks forward to her leadership in broadening the horizons and level of activity of this committee.
- The Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee will meet tomorrow and looks forward to a busy year.

Regarding other Senate Committee, Professor Bircher reported

- The Ad hoc Committee to study the Expedited Review Process is almost done with its work. The policy is now posted on the website. There is one small nuance that will be advanced and that will be for the possibility that the faculty member can opt out of the expedited review if he or she is not satisfied with the choice of hearing officer.
- We will be scheduling a meeting later this term with the Expanded Executive Committee, hopefully at a Chancellor’s luncheon.
- Professor Bircher asked Professor Frieze to give a report on the Ad hoc Committee for the Support and Advancement of Women at Pitt. Professor Frieze reported that the committee is meeting and considering a mission statement for the possibility of becoming a standing committee of the Senate. They are taking on two projects this year: sexual harassment, particularly on educating faculty about procedures and policies; and mentoring activities, for women in particular and for faculty and staff in general.

Professor Bircher ended his remarks with a few announcements. The fall plenary session is on the agenda. The spring plenary session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The topic will be “Athletics: Do we have enough say?” The next Faculty Assembly meeting will be on Tuesday, November 2 and the next Senate Council meeting will be on Monday, November 8.

#### 6. Report of Student members of Senate Council

##### *Student Government Board*

Brian Kelly congratulated Amanda for representing Pitt on *Jeopardy*. He told everyone to watch on November 11. Pitt and Pittsburgh look very good on the show.

The homecoming bonfire with PPC will be on the Cathedral lawn. Panther Pride Campus Wide was an event started last year and will be continued as part of their new traditions initiative. They are also starting "Light-Up Night at Pitt." Board member Blasi is taking the lead on this. They will have the Cathedral and Student Union lit up, tentatively on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. A lot of students are involved in the election. There was a packed house last week for the debate between Howard Dean and Ralph Reed. Mr. Kelly announced that he is running again for Student Board President and may be here for another year. Students are dismayed with the basketball ticket fiasco, the third year in a row. He hopes that this year it will go well. They are planning to work with Governmental Relations to lobby in Harrisburg and get more active in the State after the election.

#### *College of General Studies*

Rebecca Labancz said two of their biggest events are the monthly "Meet and Greet" at Panera's and Peter's Pub. They started last month and there are two this week. They are planning a "Toys for Tots" drive to start November 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been concerns regarding Social Security numbers being posted by professors in classes and they are working with Sam Conte in regards to this issue. They want to make students aware of the danger of exposing their Social Security numbers. Professor Olson said she was surprised because she thought the issue had been solved and that the rosters faculty receive only show the last five digits. Ms. Labancz replied that it had been reported that a professor was posting grades and circulating lists with names and complete Social Security numbers. Professor Bircher repeated that Dr. Conte is working on resolving that problem.

#### *Graduate and Professional Students Association*

Timothy James reported that they have plenty of replies to the Lecture Series invitations and they have three definite responses: Dr. Marvin Mickle, Dr. Michael Alswede, and attorney Edgar Snyder. They have one or two tentative confirmations that were not on the original list and that are more national. They have a supplemental funds approval they made to fund under funded groups. They allocated \$1600 to the National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology. This group does a lot of community service and gets national coverage. The planning for the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students Conference is going well. The conference is from November 10 to 14. CMU is sponsoring the welcome reception and they are trying to find a room on the Pitt campus. They will have a reception to which he would like to invite all the Senate members and student leaders to attend on November 11. The *GPSA Advocate*, which was a newspaper put together a few years ago, is being reactivated as an on-line edition to supply news and information to graduate students. They are doing an NBA ticket give away. The Cleveland Cavaliers and Atlanta Hawks are playing. They are giving away 200 tickets.

#### **SCHOOLS OF THE PROFESSIONS**

Mr. Anzoise said he had nothing to report.

#### **SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Mr. Fagley said the Arts and Science graduate students had a mixer at Qdoba a few weeks ago. They are having their first meeting this afternoon.

## SCHOOLS OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Mr. Soulakis said he had several things to report. At the last GPSA meeting he had the chance to meet the Health Services representatives. The Biomedical Graduate Student Association at the School of Medicine has an annual symposium and lecture. There are nine interdisciplinary programs at the School of Medicine that take part in the BGSA. At the symposium they celebrate events such as the first author paper, and award a distinguished mentor award, and the end of the day they choose a national speaker. This year they chose Dr. Jean Wang. The event will be on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Dental School is preparing for its annual Three Rivers Conference at the Expo Mart in Monroeville from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. At this event they get to meet vendors of dental technology. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the Ice Cream Social celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Banana Split will be held at the Dental School.

7. Report of the President of the Staff Association Council, Mr. Richard Colwell

Mr. Colwell reported on Kennywood. They sold 987 tickets including lunch. They also sold 1151 all-day tickets for another day, 1419 Sandcastle tickets, and 766 Idlewild tickets. The tickets are at a reduced price. The program and planning committee is working on a spring assembly for staff but date and topic have yet to be determined. Professor Bircher said that he forgot to announce that he had met with the SAC officers last month. The two items of mutual concern are the relative contributions to health care benefits and maintenance of real salary as direct medical expenses and other expenses such as parking go up. He also commended Mr. Colwell for his work with the Salvation Army in Pittsburgh and Florida for victims of flood and storm damage.

8. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate Community Relations Committee, Linda Hartman, Chair

Professor Hartman announced that the fall plenary is on November 3. They have a full day planned. In the morning invited speakers from many universities that have COPC programs will give a best practices discussion and discuss plans for the future. They will have a panel with Tracy Soska and someone from Robert Morris. There will then be three concurrent workshops—one on service learning; one on community outreach, service and leadership; and one on scholarship and applied research. At noon there will be a spotlight on service and scholarship and there will be exhibit tables for projects from various institutions. It will be an opportunity to find out what is going on at other places. At the same time there will be a forum on community experiential learning opportunities. The president of the Forbes Funds will moderate that panel. Also, Women Studies will be having a session on “Women in Leadership: A Roundtable on University Service.” In the afternoon the formal plenary will be from 2 to 4:30. The speaker is an associate professor from the University of Georgia and co-director of the National Clearinghouse and National Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement. There will be a reactor panel moderated by the co-director of our COPC, Sabina Deitrick. Some of the panel guests will include JoAnne Burley, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Council for Higher Education; Maureen Porter, a faculty member in the School of Education; and the associate dean of Duquesne University. At 3:45 there will be a roundtable discussion of three questions, which will lead to a formal report.

9. New Business.

The only item of new business, a letter campaign for the Port Authority, was discussed during the president's remarks.

10. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44.

Respectfully submitted,

Josephine E. Olson, Secretary

Members Attending:

Anzoise, Baker, Balaban, Belle, Bircher, Blasi, Brush, Cain, Cochran, Colwell, Costantino, Cothran, Czak, Fagley, Friedman, Frieze, Hampton, James, Juhl, Kelly, Labancz, Levine, Maher, Munro, Neuner, Nordenberg, Olson, Orbach, Pike, Ramicone, Saavedra, Singh, Soulakis, Sukits, Wion

Others Attending:

A. Blair, C. Carson, J. Fedele, R. Frisch, P. Hart, L. Hartman, R. Hill, P. Supowitz, J. Wilds